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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR PREPARING R-(*-*)-CARNITINE FROM S-(*-*)-CHLOROSUCCINIC ACID OR FROM A DERIVATIVE THEREOF



(57) Abstract

A process for the preparation of L-carnitine inner salt comprising the reduction, with a suitable reducing agent, of a compound of formula (1); where X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub>, which may be the same or different, are hydroxy, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkoxy, phenoxy, halogen, or X<sub>1</sub> and X<sub>2</sub>, when taken together are an oxygen atom and the resulting compound is a derivative of succinic anhydride; Y is halogen, the mesyloxy or the tosyloxy group; and subsequent treatment with water, then with a base and then with trimethylamine.